



## NCLC TO BUILD NEW OFFICE AT CIRCLE CREEK

This summer, North Coast Land Conservancy is breaking ground on the Circle Creek Conservation Center—a goal more than 10 years in the making.

The project is more of a homecoming for the organization, which originally was headquartered at Circle Creek before a fire destroyed the office building in 2012. Since then, it has been a goal for NCLC to rebuild at Circle Creek.

"We say our 'office,' but we really mean our home, the anchor of our organization," NCLC Executive Director

Katie Voelke says. "Circle Creek is a really special place. It's an incredible wildlife area, hosting everything from rare birds to salmon to bears. It's beautiful and big and wild, yet just a few minutes from either Seaside or Cannon Beach. It is a place where people can come to walk, sit, hike, listen, observe and gather. It is also a place that describes the value and critical nature of conservation, with no words required. Just being at Circle Creek answers the question: Why is conservation important?"

Since the devastating fire, other projects have taken precedence, such as the creation of the Rainforest Reserve and the purchase of Boneyard Ridge, a 340-acre property connecting Circle Creek and Ecola State Park on Tillamook Head.

The time has now come for NCLC to bring to fruition its vision of a true conservation center at Circle Creek.

The Circle Creek Conservation Center will serve not just NCLC but the coastal community as well.

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## MARINE RESERVE SERVES AS SITE FOR COMMUNITY SCIENCE

The Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, located offshore on the northern Oregon Coast, is often described as a living laboratory, a site for important scientific discovery.

However, that opportunity is not reserved for professional scientists who work for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife or partnering agencies.

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## PASSING ALONG A PASSION FOR NONPROFIT WORK

A passion for nonprofit work runs in the Sinkler family.

Maryann's mother volunteered and fundraised for various organizations. Then, Maryann spent more than 25 years doing humanitarian work that involved animal shelters and the American Red Cross. Now, her and Steven's daughter, Kayla, is a consultant to nonprofits.

"It's kind of a generational thing," Maryann says. "We really understand the value of donations to nonprofits and that it enables them to get their work done."

The Sinklers moved to Cannon Beach in 2012, manifesting a longtime dream sparked when Maryann saw an article about the town in *Sunset Magazine* that she carried with her for seven years. While in Oregon looking at grad schools with their daughter, they finally got to visit.

"We looked at each other and said, 'This is where we're going to retire,'" Steven says. "We love the beauty of it, the ruggedness, the changing weather."

However, the plan was expedited, and they moved before retirement. They purchased the Wine Shack & Puffin Wines in Cannon Beach and also now



*Maryann and Steven Sinkler with their grandkids, Boden and Reese.*

work as realtors. Right away, they started contributing to local nonprofits, like Friends of Haystack Rock.

"We wanted to plug into the local community and not be people who just took," Maryann says.

They got to know North Coast Land Conservancy via longtime volunteer and

### **"WHEN OUR TIME HERE COMES TO AN END, WHAT ARE WE LEAVING BEHIND TO THE LITTLES?"**

board member Betsy Ayres, who also lives in Cannon Beach. Betsy invited the couple to events, added them to NCLC's mailing list, and requested Puffin

Wine donations for various events.

"She really cultivated us as friends and dear neighbors. The more we learned, the more important it became to us to give to the land," Maryann says, citing the first line from the National Association of Realtors' Code of Ethics: "Under all is the land."

"That's the truth," she adds. "The creatures—animals and humans—don't have a chance if the land isn't okay."

Protecting wildlife is a major

motivation for Maryann—standing up and lending a voice for those who can't speak for themselves. Thinking about their grandchildren also compels the Sinklers to support NCLC and other organizations that care for natural resources.

"When our time here comes to an end, what are we leaving behind to the littles?" Maryann says.

The Sinklers recognized NCLC as being in "capable hands," with a solid vision and plan of action, in addition to well-respected leadership. "We feel like our money will be well-utilized here," she says.

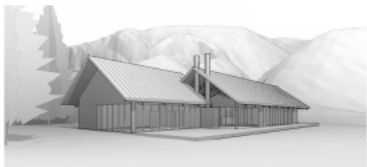
The couple also strive to connect others to local organizations. As realtors, whenever someone uses their services to purchase a house, the Sinklers will say thank-you by making a donation to a nonprofit of the buyer's choice in their name. Her hope is individuals will further connect with the group and establish a long-term relationship. "I like to think we're sort of matchmaking them with a local organization," Maryann says.

## CIRCLE CREEK

*(continued from page 1)*

The new office building will include spaces inside and out where NCLC can invite the public for planned gatherings, celebrations, lectures, hikes, walks and classes. The reserve also includes two wonderful nature trails through forests and wetlands that are open to community use.

NCLC is working with Cove Built Construction to build the new center; O'Brien Design+Build served as the design consultant. The plan is to have the building completed and operating by the end of 2024.



During construction, the reserve—including the trails—will be closed to ensure public safety. Get the full story at [NCLCtrust.org/circle-creek-building-project](http://NCLCtrust.org/circle-creek-building-project).

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*NCLC's conservation plan focuses on climate, connectivity, and community.*

## A NEW PHILOSOPHY: CLIMATE, CONNECTIVITY, AND COMMUNITY

NCLC is developing a new conservation plan to help guide decision-making around land acquisitions on the Oregon Coast over the next couple of decades. The plan is centered on three priorities: climate resilience, habitat connectivity, and community.

Those concepts, which surfaced during NCLC's ongoing strategic planning process, are ways in which to consider and compare the different impacts that a given conservation project can have on the future of local communities and ecosystems.

NCLC's conservation team has worked over the past few months to develop this conservation plan, along with a digital prioritization tool. It

utilizes GIS (Geographic Information System) technology to compile a host of factors related to land parcels within NCLC's service area, which stretches from the Columbia River to the Siletz Bay. Some of those factors include salmon-bearing streams, old-growth forest, and connectivity to other public lands, to name a few. The tool acts as an initial filter to identify potential for future conservation, says associate director Jon Wickersham, adding, "Wherever the most of those important characteristics overlap is where we would start looking for opportunities to pursue land acquisitions or develop conservation initiatives."

Read the full story at [NCLCtrust.org/conservation-planning](https://NCLCtrust.org/conservation-planning).

## CAPE MEARES MAKES PROGRESS ON FORESTLAND PROTECTION

The nonprofit Cape Meares Community Association (CMCA) is leading a project to protect its forests and surrounding watershed.

In June, the association entered into a final sales agreement to purchase 107 of forestland in Tillamook County by May 2024. This will be a major milestone in preserving and safeguarding habitat for the current community and future generations. The parcel is adjacent to 106 acres of community forest that the association has owned since 2007, and it will create a connection to the Cape



Meares Wildlife Refuge and Cape Meares State Scenic Viewpoint.

The long-term goal is to sell both the 107-acre property—as well as the community forest—to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expand the refuge boundary and provide potential habitat

for the endangered marbled murrelet. The Conservation Fund (TCF) will serve as a bridge buyer and hold the lands until the refuge has secured the funding for acquisition.

NCLC has worked alongside CMCA to facilitate the project, and CMCA also has engaged "many different folks in the community and the region," says Simone Goldfeder, who is part of CMCA's Project Team. "This acquisition will be mutually beneficial to all."

Read more at [NCLCtrust.org/cape-meares-facilitation](https://NCLCtrust.org/cape-meares-facilitation).

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Oregon's coastal  
lands and waters,  
forever.*

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## CALLISTA MARTIN JOINS NCLC AS 2023 INTERN

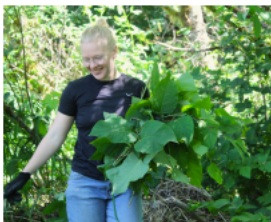
North Coast Land Conservancy's stewardship team is benefitting from an extra pair of hands this summer.

Callista Martin started a summer internship on June 20 that will run until mid-August. Callista, who is originally from Coos Bay and graduated from Whitman College in May, is helping the stewardship team with Weed Warrior Wednesdays, volunteer work parties, site monitoring, invasive species removal, and a variety of other tasks aimed at caring for the organization's habitat reserves on the Oregon Coast.

"I'm a mini steward," Callista says.

She got hooked on ecology while doing field work last summer that involved collecting data on bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) at Wallula Gap on the Columbia River.

Upon graduating from Whitman in May with a bachelor's degree in biology, she was



looking for positions related to science and natural resource management on the northern Oregon Coast and eventually got connected with NCLC.

"I'm so excited to be back on the coast," she says. "I've missed it."

Some of her other passions include writing, reading, knitting, skiing and hiking.

**Read about Callista's harrowing encounter with cow parsnip at [NCLCtrust.org/Sap-Zap](https://NCLCtrust.org/Sap-Zap)**

## CFMR SCIENCE

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Community scientists can also get involved—and play a significant role in furthering our collective understanding of the ocean and the life it supports.

"It's a way that people can actually get out into the marine reserve and see the issues that are happening in real-time and contribute to really important data collection for our different partner agencies," NCLC Marine Program Coordinator Angela Whitlock says.

Some of the important



Jesse Jones (right), with Oregon Shores CoastWatch, conducts a sea star survey training for volunteers.

community science programs currently taking place or being planned for the near future include sea star surveying at the tidepools at Short Sand Beach, which is adjacent to Cape Falcon Marine Reserve; a Beachy Keen BioBlitz that

runs through Sept. 15; annual black oystercatcher monitoring led by Portland Audubon; and marine debris monitoring on the beach.

Read more at [NCLCtrust.org/cape-falcon-marine-reserve-community-science](https://NCLCtrust.org/cape-falcon-marine-reserve-community-science).

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